

PRIMARY ARGUMENT AGAINST PROPOSITION 12

While our national political leaders may not always be wise in directing the use of American military force around the world, we rightly honor military service - especially the service of enlistees who actually put their lives at risk in combat.

Enlistees should receive higher pay and benefits from the federal government. In the context of low pay and inadequate benefits from the federal government, state governments certainly are justified in stepping in and providing additional assistance.

The Cal-Vet Loan Program has provided low-interest farm and housing loans to veterans for many years. This measure would authorize the State to borrow more money (by selling bonds) to provide additional funds for the Program. The amount to be borrowed is \$900 million.

Since funds are limited, the question is:

WHICH VETERANS ARE THE MOST DESERVING OF ASSISTANCE?

Cal-Vet loans are limited to veterans who served in the **time** of a war - including the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and the current campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. There is no requirement for the veteran to have served in combat or even in a combat zone. A veteran who served in Germany or never even left the United States can apply for a loan.

The veterans who actually served in harm's way are most deserving of the limited assistance available under the Cal-Vet Loan Program.

California voters could reasonably insist that the Cal-Vet Loan Program be limited to veterans who served in combat or a combat zone before they approve more borrowing to fund the Program.

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**SUBJECT TO COURT
ORDERED CHANGES**